[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

that Department. As an experiment, the Department is using untreated posts for a short length from Alwaye to Kothamangalam. So far we have treated about 900 posts for the line from Pallom to Alleppey. The treatment of double poles has just been taken up. Our idea is to confine the treatment at present to the requirements of the Electric Department. We had so many enquiries from private persons whether we could undertake that treatment of their timber. At present we are busy. We cannot undertake all that work. The object at present is to treat only teak for the use of the Electric Department. After the requirements of the Department have been supplied, we will try the treatment on inferior timber.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

**Motion No. 513.**

The following motion lapsed on account of the time-limit:

MR. S. J. NAIR:

513. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,52,848 under Demand X by Re. 1.

The question that a sum of Rs. 7,52,848 *minus* Rs. 7,756 be granted under Demand X—Forest, was then put and carried.

## DEMAND XI—STAMPS.

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 67,908 under Demand XI—Stamps.

**Motion No. 514.**

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,036 for Manufactory by Rs. 10.*

My object in making this motion is to recommend to Government that the Service Stamps in the State can with advantage be done away with. I confess, at the outset that, I am not aware of the facts which necessitated Government to introduce these stamps in the State. But whatever may be the reasons, I hold the view that at present there is no necessity for retaining these service stamps. I think one reason for its introduction might have been that this would minimise the chances of committing fraud, on Government communications, by the public. If that be the reason, I ask the Financial Secretary to enlighten me whether any malpractices were committed by the public on Government communications when franking system was in force, and whether Government have attempted any other system instead, and found it unworkable. Another reason, Sir, appears to be to give credit to the Anchal Department for carrying Government parcels and letters. If that be the reason, I may say that there are ever so many other departments in the State for which payment is not being made.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Is not the Anchal Department a commercial Department?

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**MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara II*): Yes, to some extent. But similarly there is the Government Press which has also metamorphosed to a commercial Department on account of the new policy adopted by Government recently. The real reason appears to be that this would afford a means of inflatting the revenue of the Anchal Department. Government could adopt some other method, such as stamping the communications with rubber stamps or steal stamps in which case the cost will not be so prohibitive.

**MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB** (*Nominated*) Is there not scope for malpractices even now?

**MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara II*): Yes, Sir, There is considerable scope under the present system itself. For instance, the Administration Report of the Police Department for the last few years shows Travancore is far in the ascendant in one respect at least, *viz.*, in counterfeiting currency notes and uttering false coins. In these we have almost attained the hall-mark of perfection. And what does this connote?

**PRESIDENT**: The House will now rise and meet again at 2 O' clock.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1 P. M., and reassembled after lunch at 2 P. M., the Deputy President presiding.

**MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara II*): Sir, I scanned in vain the pages of the Administration Report to put my finger on the actual amount that was spent by Government for printing the service stamps, and I hope the Financial Secretary will enlighten me on that point. I may also inform the House that, in the Mysore State, this system is not being followed and the franking of Government communications which were in vogue here during past years is in vogue. Anti-waste and retrenchment is the cry of the day. As there are other systems to be adopted without suffering such driblets of departmental waste, I urge that these service stamps may with advantage be given up. I think this service stamp system is simply introduced to bloat up the revenue of the Anchal Department. With these words, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

**MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR** (*Kartikapalli II*): I rise to support the motion. In Government Offices the despatching clerk franks the communications of Government. So far as this House is concerned, the service stamps are not being used, but the Members send the communications 'bearing'. There is no advantage for the members of Government by the use of these stamps.

I would suggest one point in this connection. Arrangements should be made for the manufacture of stamps in such a way as to have the bust of His Highness the Maha Raja in the prominent position of the stamp. This is successfully adopted in the case of British stamps where the bust of His Majesty the King Emperor is affixed properly. It will infuse into our minds the extent of devotion and loyalty to the Throne. In the same manner our stamps should

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[Mr. Ramakrishna Panickar.]

also have the symbol of the Throne affixed to it so that loyalty and devotion may be cherished in the minds of every one of us in Travancore. It is only just and expedient that this arrangement should be effected at once. With these words, I support the motion.

**RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR** (*Finacial Secretary to Government*): Sir, the proposal of the honourable mover of the motion, if adopted, is likely to result in greater opportunity for the misuse of stamps and for escaping the ordinary Anchal revenue. As a consequence, there will be loss of ordinary revenue. The use of Anchal service stamps is strictly confined to the Government Offices. The clerks keep these stamps. An account is kept in the offices for the use of the stamps and it is checked.

**MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know how this will lead to loss of revenue?

**RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR** (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It will be difficult for the Anchal staff to check a particular communication and see whether it requires a service stamp or therwise. He will have to accept the franking on the cover by the clerk. Nobody else can use service stamps, neither the officials nor their dependents. If the stamp is not marked 'service', it is likely to be abused. A safeguard is provided by affixing service stamps.

**MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara II*): What was the practice in Travancore before the introduction of service stamps?

**RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR** (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Probably, about 40 years ago, I understand that the system of service stamps was not in use.

**MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know the reasons that necessitated the introduction of this system?

**RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR** (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Just to prevent leakage of revenue, this safe-guard must have been devised. The same safe-guard is provided in British India also. So far as I remember, for about 50 to 60 years, ever since, the service stamps are in use; the main reason is to prevent leakage of revenue and also the misuse of stamps by the departmental officials and their peons. The ordinary Anchal staff will have no means to check whether the communication is private or a 'service bearing' one.

**MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara II*): What does the member say about the system in Mysore?

**RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR** (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is no Anchal Department in Mysore, so far as I know. They work on the British Postal system. Therefore it was not considered necessary to introduce this system.

There is also another reason. The Anchal Department is a quasi-commercial department. A separate account is kept for the cost of service stamps and also other Anchal stamps. The cost of the ordinary

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Anchal stamps is determined with reference to the financial results of the working of that department.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): May I know whether by this practice there is actual gain for Government?

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is some slight gain no doubt. Here we do not keep any complete commercial account as in British India. The receipts are more than the expenditure and the idea is to give a cheap Anchal service to the citizens of the State. For that, it is treated as a quasi-commercial department. We have to keep an account of the receipts and expenditure and then compare whether any increase in Anchal rates is called for.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): What does the member say about the Press Department? Is it not like the Anchal? Are there not private works?

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Government have merely to control the expenditure in the Press. There is a sort of costing account system just as in British India in which the cost of private work turned out in the Press is calculated, to control the expenditure on compositors and check their out-turn for auxiliary purposes; the value of the works done by the Press is not charged to the respective budgets. That is the difference between the Press and the Anchal Department. We have to determine the rate of Anchal articles. We have to take into account the work done by the Anchal Department for the Government. For that we have to adopt some means and the ordinary method adopted in British India is by using service stamps. After all, the cost of the manufacture of Anchal stamps comes to about Rs. 9,000. If you want to abolish that system, there will be leakage of revenue, to a considerable extent, amounting to more than the cost of manufacture of Anchal stamps itself.

In regard to the control of Anchal service stamps, a provision is made in the budget for Anchal charges separately in every department The heads of departments have a means of controlling the expenditure thereby and see that they do not exceed the amount. In view of all these reasons, I don't think it will be wise to dispense with the ordinary Anchal service stamps in the State.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): I am not satisfied with the answer given by the Financial Secretary. The chief objeca tion that he said was that it will entail a loss in revenue and give chance for the commission of fraud. My only answer to this is that even at present hundreds of malpractices are being committed by the subordinates in our public service and none of these things are being detected.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): So the member is in favour of affording more temptations for committing fraud?



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MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Not at all. It is regrettable Sir, to hear from the official benches such statements at this time of the day, when the Government with quixotic haste and hurry sanctioned the reorganisation of the C. I. D. and for that sanctioned a huge amount without even consulting this House. It is indeed—

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is reference to C. I. D. in order?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is not quite relevant, even though Mr. Krishna Pillai has used it as a reason.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Even in the sister State of Mysore, this practice is not followed; and the mere franking of communications without service stamps is in vogue and is working very satisfactorily. On these grounds, I think that Rs. 9,000 as expenditure in this direction is certainly a wastage of public revenue.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Will not a more effective control by the departmental head improve matters?

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Certainly; but I fear it is but a pious wish.

For these reasons, I press the motion.

The motion was put to vote and lost.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum of Rs. 67,908 under Demand XI Stamps—be sanctioned.

The motion was put and carried, and the grant was made.

## DEMAND XII—REGISTRATION.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Registration*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3,17,960 under Demand XII—Registration.

### Motion No. 515.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I move:—

*to reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for Director by Rs. 2,400.*

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it votable?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, Sir; because it is not stated that it is not votable in the budget.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): On a point of order. The object is not mentioned. So, is the motion in order?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In keeping with the practice adopted in the House, the object should have been stated.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): No Sir. The practice here is that, when token motions are moved, the object has to be stated Here I have asked for a specific cut. The object is very clear.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Asan can now proceed with the motion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The pay of the Director of Registration is revised by the standardisation scheme to Rs. 250 to 300; that is even if the Director is to be paid the maximum salary sanctioned under the Thommen Scheme, only Rs. 3,600 is necessary.

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